

Production No. 8F07

The Simpsons

"SATURDAYS OF THUNDER"

Written by

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REVISED TABLE DRAFT

Date 5/03/91

"SATURDAYS OF THUNDER"

Cast List

HOMER.....DAN CASTELLANETA
MARGE.....JULIE KAVNER
BART.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
LISA.....YEARDLEY SMITH
PATTY.....JULIE KAVNER
SELMA.....JULIE KAVNER
MILHOUSE.....PAMELA HAYDEN
MARTIN.....RUSSI TAYLOR
NELSON.....NANCY CARTWRIGHT
BARNEY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
NED FLANDERS.....HARRY SHEARER
DR. HIBBERT.....HARRY SHEARER
TROY MCCLURE.....PHIL HARTMAN
DIAMOND JOE QUIMBY.....DAN CASTELLANETA
DR. RIVIERA.....HANK AZARIA
TEENAGE CLERK.....HARRY SHEARER
ANNOUNCER.....DAN CASTELLANETA
P.A. ANNOUNCER.....HANK AZARIA
SCOEY.....HANK AZARIA
MCBAIN.....HARRY SHEARER
BRITISH COMMENTATOR.....DAN CASTELLANETA
FOOTBALL ANNOUNCER.....HARRY SHEARER

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DAVE.....HARRY SHEARER
DAVE JR.....DAN CASTELLANETA
RONNIE BECK.....PAMELA HAYDEN
SINGER.....DAN CASTELLANETA
OFFICIAL.....HANK AZARIA
VOICE FROM THE TRUNK....DAN CASTELLANETA
WEASEL #1.....PAMELA HAYDEN

SATURDAYS OF THUNDER

Written by

Ken Levine & David Isaacs

ACT ONE

Scene 1

FADE IN:

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

ON TV

Fast-moving graphics and **MUSIC** introduce the endorsement show, "I Can't Believe They Invented It".

ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

Products you could only imagine

before. Ogle Goggles...

QUICK SHOTS -- A MAN wearing huge rearview mirrors attached to his glasses. An attractive WOMAN in a bikini walks behind him and he smiles.

ANNOUNCER (V.O. CONT'D)

...the Jet Walker...

An ELDERLY WOMAN is slowly going down a street using a regular walker. Another ELDERLY WOMAN **ZOOMS** past her on a rocket-powered walker.

ANNOUNCER (V.O. CONT'D)

...Mr. Sugar Cube...

A WOMAN is pouring a large bag of sugar into a huge, clumsy-looking machine. On it is a drawing of a sugar cube with a smiling face. Sugar cubes come pouring out the bottom.

SFX: LOUD GRINDING

HOMER, in T-shirt and pants, is on the couch, with MAGGIE.

Scene 1
Cont

HOMER

(RE MR. SUGAR CUBE) That baby changed
our lives.

ON TV

TROY McCLURE, the host, stands on a set.

TROY

I'm actor Troy McClure.

The AUDIENCE **APPLAUDS** ferociously.

TROY (CONT'D)

You might remember me from such TV
series as "Buck Henderson, Union
Buster" and "Troy and Company's
Summertime Smile Factory", but I'm
here to tell you about... Spiffy, a
Twenty-First Century stain remover.
Let's meet the inventor -- Dr. Nick
Riviera.

DR. RIVIERA joins Troy.

SFX: APPLAUSE

Scene 2

DR. RIVIERA

Thank you, Troy. Hi, everybody.

AUDIENCE

Hi, Dr. Nick.

HOMER

There's a great man, Maggie.

Dr. Riviera stands by a dirty tombstone.

Scene 2
Cont

DR. RIVIERA

Troy, I've brought with me the
gravestone of author and troubled
soul Edgar Allan Poe.

TROY

One of our best writers.

DR. RIVIERA

Unfortunately, a century of neglect
has turned this tombstone into a
depressing eyesore.

TROY

We have a way of forgetting, don't
we? So, what, I guess we're gonna
throw it away.

DR. RIVIERA

Not so fast Troy! With one
application of Spiffy, you'll think
the body's still warm.

TROY

This I've gotta see.

Dr. Riviera wipes the tombstone with liquid from a bottle
labeled "Spiffy". The stone shines revealing the letters
POE. The audience OHH'S and AHH'S.

TROY (CONT'D)

Quoth the Raven, "What a shine!"

Troy fixes his hair using the reflection in the tombstone.

Scene 2
cont.

HOMER

(ENTHRALLED) Ooooooh! That's one
clean tombstone.

BART enters, carrying several planks of wood.

BART

Hey, Dad, you got a power drill?

HOMER

(ANNOYED) In the garage.

BART

Check.

Bart scrambles off. We hear **DRILL NOISES** and an **OCCASIONAL**
"OUCH" throughout.

Scene 3

ON TV

Behind Dr. Riviera is a display of Banish products.

TROY

I suppose this exciting product is
only available to Royalty?

DR. RIVIERA

Not any more! I'm offering three
bottles -- enough to clean one
thousand tombstones -- for only
thirty-nine ninety-five.

The audience **BOOS** and waves their fists angrily. Dr. Nick
ducks just as a chair comes flying at him.

TROY

I'm afraid you're going to have to do
better, Doctor.

Scene 3
Cont

HOMER

Yeah, give us a break, Doctor.

Bart re-enters.

BART

Hey, Homer, I can't find the safety goggles for the power saw.

HOMER

So?

BART

Aren't I supposed to wear them?

HOMER

(ANNOYED) If stuff starts flying, just turn your head.

BART

Check.

Bart exits. This time the constant sound of POWER TOOLS is heard.

DR. RIVIERA

I'll throw in a fourth bottle, the applicator glove, and a state of Kansas jello mold -- twenty-nine ninety-five.

Dr. Nick is holding up an ordinary rectangular jello mold. The audience CHEERS and starts to rush the stage waving money. Homer goes for the phone.

TROY

Not so fast Doctor! They like that price, but I think you can do better.

Scene 3
cont

DR. RIVIERA

(LAUGHS) Okay Troy, I don't know why
I'm doing this, but -- nineteen
ninety-five.

HOMER

(GASPS)

An **EXCITED** Homer pushes all the phone buttons at once.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Okay, okay, calm down.

He takes a deep breath and dials more slowly.

Scene 4

SFX: DOORBELL RINGS

MARGE (O.S.)

Homer, can you get the door? It's my
sisters.

HOMER

(SHUDDERS)

MARGE sticks her head in from the kitchen.

MARGE (CONT'D)

Homer, be nice.

Homer opens the door PATTY and SELMA enter.

HOMER

Patty, Selma, what a pleasant
surprise.

Patty and Selma head for the kitchen.

PATTY

What do you know, he's wearing pants.

Scene 4
cont

SELMA

I owe you a lunch.

They exit.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - MOMENTS LATER

Marge, Patty and Selma are sitting around the table, clipping pictures out of magazines.

SELMA

Do you think Mr. Gus can make me look
like Candice Bergen?

PATTY

You're half way there with your high
cheek bones and sassy attitude.

Patty looks through another magazine.

PATTY (CONT'D)

Ugly... ugly... butch...

MARGE

What's the matter, can't you find a
hair style you like?

PATTY

No... Hold the phone. That's the one
for me.

MARGE

(LOOKING AT PICTURE) Ed Asner?

PATTY

No, next to him. Mary... Tyler...
Moore.

The all MURMUR in agreement.

Scene 5

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MINUTES LATER

Homer is on the phone as Marge, her sisters and LISA enter.
The sound of **HAMMERING** and **POWER TOOLS** continues O.S.

HOMER

(ON PHONE, HOLDING CREDIT CARD) ...

Expiration date: February, 1980...

(LYING) Uh, '96.

MARGE

Homer, are you ordering junk off the
TV again?

HOMER

(COVERING PHONE) Shh! They'll hear
you. For your information it's a
space-age stain remover.

PATTY

(TO SELMA) She can use it on him.

SFX: POWER SAW

MARGE

Who's using the power tools?

HOMER

I don't know. Some guy I guess.

Marge and the sisters head out the door.

MARGE

Homer, we're going to the beauty
parlor. Maybe you should do
something with the kids while I'm
gone.

Scene 5
Cont

HOMER

Oh sure, great idea. I'd love to...

(SEEING LISA; ANNOYED GRUNT) Did you
hear that?

LISA

Yes.

HOMER

How much?

LISA

Everything.

HOMER

What's the quickest, cheapest,
easiest way to do something with you?

LISA

Uh... take us to the video store.

HOMER

(SWEETLY) Anything for my little
girl.

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MINUTES LATER

The garage door is open. Bart has assembled the frame of a Soap Box Derby racer. He is welding the axle with the welding goggles up on top of his head.

HOMER

Bart! You can't weld with such a
little flame. (TO HIMSELF) Stupid
kid.

Homer gets into the car and **PEELS** off. Lisa and Maggie are with him.

Scene 6

EXT. VHS VILLAGE - DAY

The sign reads, "VHS VILLAGE -- FORMERLY THE BETA BARN".

INT. VHS VILLAGE - CONT.

Homer, Lisa and Maggie enter the store and step up to the checkout area. In the b.g. is a display of tapes for sale. They're all "Ghostbusters II".

TEENAGE CLERK

Enjoy the movie, Sir?

HOMER

No, this was a Box Baby -- one of those videos you rent but never watch.

SUPER: BOX BABY (TM)

TEENAGE CLERK

Yeah, most of our business is Box Babies.

SUPER: BOX BABY (TM)

Homer notices a movie **PLAYING** on the overhead monitor.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Ooooooh, McBain.

ON SCREEN

McBAIN and his assigned partner, SCOEY, are off nightwatch, eating at an inner-city barbecue stand.

SCOEY

McBain, you keep eating them hot links and you'll never make it to a pension.

MC BAIN

Live a little, Scoey.

Scene 6
Cont.

SCOEY

No, thanks. Got me a future,
partner. I'm two days away from
retirement, and as soon as we nail
Mendoza my old lady and I are gonna
sail around the world like we always
wanted. We just christened the boat.

From his jacket Scoey pulls a picture of his wife, holding
a bottle of champagne. She stands next to a boat named
"The Live-4-Ever".

SCOEY (CONT'D)

Yes, sir, everything's gonna be just
perf...

Scoey never finishes. A YOUNG BUSBOY pulls a handgun out
of a chicken and starts **FIRING**, aiming for McBain but
hitting Scoey seven or eight times. The busboy jumps on a
motorcycle parked behind the counter and drives through the
front window. McBain comes up **FIRING** a thousand rounds at
him, but only succeeds in hitting everything in the b.g.
McBain holds Scoey, still clutching his photo, in his arms.

SCOEY (CONT'D)

McBain... I'm not gonna make it.

MC BAIN

Stop talkin' crazy.

SCOEY

(WHISPERS) Just do one thing for
me... get... Mendoza.

Scoey dies, dropping the photo. An agonized McBain cradles
the lifeless body of his only friend.

MC BAIN

Mendozaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Scene 7

BACK TO STORE

Homer, holding Maggie, is riveted, watching the movie while he shovels down the store's popcorn. Truly moved, a little tear runs down his cheek. The TEENAGE CLERK approaches.

TEENAGE CLERK

You want to rent it, sir?

HOMER

Why? I just saw the best part.

Heh-heh.

Homer walks off. He arrives in his favorite section -- Sports. There are all kinds of titles: "Death by Knockout", "Bench-Clearing Brawls", "Blood on the Ice".

HOMER (CONT'D)

Oooh, pay dirt... "Football's
Greatest Injuries". (THEN; CALLING
OUT) Lisa, we're going.

They meet in another section.

LISA

But, Dad, I can't find "Happy Little
Elves in Tinkly Winkly Town".

HOMER

(IMPATIENT) We'll get you something
else, all these movies are great.

INT. MR. GUS' SALON - DAY

Marge, Patty and Selma sit under oversized hair dryers, flipping through the latest tabloids: "The Informer", "Idle Chatter", "Peephole Magazine". They're not shy about tearing out articles that interest them, leaving holes in the salon's magazines.

Scene 7
Cont

MARGE

Isn't this sweet? -- The world's
tallest man and the world's shortest
man got together.

The picture is of a SHORT MAN with a basketball in his
hands; the TALL MAN is holding him up so he can dunk it.

SELMA

That's gotta help, knowing there's
someone in the world just like you.

MARGE

Here's something interesting -- "Test
your F.Q. -- Fatherhood Quotient".
(SHE CLIPS IT) Maybe I should try it
on Homer.

PATTY

He'll fail it.

SELMA

In a second.

MARGE

(IRRITATED) I don't know.

SELMA

(RE MAGAZINE) Now Henry Winkler,
there's a father. Listen to what he
told a close friend. (READING) "I
don't always keep my cool like 'The
Fonz', but my love for my kids has
given me plenty of 'Happy Days'."

Marge and Patty GRUNT in agreement.

Scene 8

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Homer is back on the couch with a beer, enjoying "Football's Greatest Injuries". Bart's RACKET is still going on in the b.g.

ON TV

A graceful HALFBACK runs for touchdowns.

FOOTBALL ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

(A LA JOHN FACENDA) ... They called him "The Galloping Gazelle". His habitat: the frozen tundra of Soldier Field. For six seasons and two pro bowls he grazed on the tasty green turf of the end zone. Until one fateful Sunday in November when the gazelle was stopped in his tracks by a 320-pound big cat named Wayne Kychezski. (Pronounced "Sha-chef'-ski".)

IN SLOW MOTION - A graceful runner is loping along with the ball when a large defender grabs his facemask and snaps his neck back. The Gazelle twitches on the ground as the other player does a war dance over him.

SFX: AN UGLY SNAPPING SOUND.

HOMER

(GRIMACING) Oooooooooooooooooooooooffffffff!...

(BELCHES)

MARGE (O.S.)

Homie, we're back.

Homer catches sight of the sisters and their new hairstyles. He LAUGHS, tries politely to catch himself, but can't. They're outrageous.

Scene 8
cont.

PATTY

Don't mind that clod, Selma. You
could turn the world on with your
smile.

MARGE

Homer, would you turn off the TV?
There's a little test I want you to
take.

Homer looks over at Marge. We hear **BONE CRUNCHING** and a
SCREAM from the TV.

HOMER

Oh great, you made me miss Joe
Theisman.

Homer turns off the VCR. He holds up the quiz.

Scene 9

MARGE

This is from the National Fatherhood
Institute. It evaluates your
knowledge of your son and rates you
as a father.

HOMER

How many questions?

MARGE

Four.

HOMER

Ohhh, can't we do two tonight and two
tomorrow?

Scene 9
cont.

MARGE

No. (READING) Question one: "Name one
of your child's friends..."

HOMER

Bart's friends... The fat kid with
the thing... uh... the little wiener
who's always got his hands in his
pockets.

MARGE

They want a name, Homer, not a vague
description.

HOMER

Okay. (GUESSING) Hank.

MARGE

Hank?! Hank who?

HOMER

Hank... Jones.

MARGE

(ANNOYED MURMUR) Question two: "Who
are your son's heroes?"

HOMER

Steve McQueen.

MARGE

That's your hero. "Name another dad
you talked to about parenting."

HOMER

(IMMEDIATELY) Next.

Scene 9
cont

MARGE

"What are your son's hobbies?"

HOMER

Well, he's always chewing on that
phone cord.

MARGE

He hasn't done that since he was two.

HOMER

Then he has no hobbies.

MARGE

(POINTED) Oh really? Maybe you
should go out in the garage and see.

Scene 10

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - GARAGE - CONT.

Bart, still **BANGING** away, has clumsily put together the
shell of what looks like a soapbox racer.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Bart!... BART!!!

BART

What?

HOMER

You don't have any hobbies, do you
boy?

BART

Well, I am building this Soap Box
Derby racer.

HOMER

(SHOCKED) You are?

Scene 12
Cont

BART

Yeah, I wanna be like my hero, three-
time National Soapbox Derby Champion
Ronnie Beck.

Bart points to an ad poster he's hung, which reads,
"NATIONAL SOAP BOX TRIALS -- SPRINGFIELD". Marge and Selma
come to the door as Homer begins to SOB.

HOMER

Oh, my God. You're right. I don't
know jack about my boy... (STARTS TO
SOB) I'm a bad father!

SELMA

You're also fat.

HOMER

I'm also fat!

Homer **SOBS** away.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

Scene 11

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

Homer is on the phone.

DAVE (V.O.)

National Fatherhood Institute.

Please hold...

While Homer waits, Harry Chapin's "CAT'S IN THE CRADLE"
PLAYS over the phone.

SINGER (V.O.)

(SINGING) The cat's in the cradle
with the silver spoon / Little boy
blue and the man in the moon...

DAVE

National Fatherhood Institute. Dave
speaking.

INTERCUT between Homer and DAVE, a Ward Cleaver-type, in the lobby of the National Fatherhood Institute. FATHERS AND SONS sit together, filling out forms. On the wall we see the famous Leonardo Da Vinci pen and ink drawing "Human Figure in a Circle." The MAN has four arms, and four legs. His hands hold a baseball glove, a kite, a briefcase and his son's hand. On the feet are a pair of shoes and a pair of slippers. There is a pipe in his mouth.

HOMER

I'm Homer Simpson. I just took your
test. I got a zero.

Scene 11
Cont

DAVE

Good Lord, a zero! (PRESSES
INTERCOM) Lona, cancel my one
o'clock. Mr. Simpson, we'll send a
wood panelled station wagon over for
you immediately.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - GARAGE - SAME

Bart, still **TINKERING** away on the shell of his racer, is
holding court for MARTIN, MILHOUSE and SEVERAL OTHER
FRIENDS.

MILHOUSE

Bart, where'd you get the lumber?

BART

Well, as three-time soapbox derby
champ Ronnie Beck says, "Poorly
guarded construction sites are a gold
mine."

Martin takes a walk around the racer.

MARTIN

(SNOOTY) A conventional design.

BART

Oh, yeah? Are you building a racer,
Martin?

MARTIN

(COYLY) In between some other
projects. Well, gentlemen, if you'll
excuse me, I've booked some time at
the wind tunnel.

Scene 11
Cont

A wood panelled station wagon **PULLS UP**. TWO MEN in white lab coats come for Homer and hustle him into the car.

HOMER

(TO BART) Goodbye, son.

MILHOUSE

Hey Bart, I think they're finally
hauling your dad away.

BART

Maybe it's for the best.

Scene 12

**EXT. NATIONAL FATHERHOOD INSTITUTE - AFTERNOON -
ESTABLISHING**

Homer is **DRIVEN UP** to a huge Norad-style institute with barbed wire and a guard gate.

INT. NATIONAL FATHERHOOD INSTITUTE - LATER

Homer is being escorted by Dave, who carries a clipboard. Typical father-son interaction is going on all over the place. ONE DAD is teaching his SON how to ride a bike, another DAD and his SON are fishing in a simulated lake -- all the while wired to electrodes. On a computer screen we see a 3-D wire frame FATHER and SON playing catch. Dave takes a book from a huge stack.

DAVE

For starters, Mr. Simpson, take this
complimentary copy of "Fatherhood" by
Bill Cosby.

HOMER

If he's as smart as he is funny, I'm
sold.

DAVE

Open to any page and I guarantee
you'll find a pearl of wisdom.

Scene 12
Cont

HOMER

Really? (OPENS BOOK; CHUCKLES THEN
GASPS) It's true. My kids do always
bug me when I'm in the bathroom.

DAVE

Now, the most important thing is to
spend time with your son.

HOMER

(TESTY) Well, that's easy for you to
say, you preachy egg-headed institute
guy. How much do you see your kids?

A YOUNG SCIENTIST walks up.

DAVE JR.

Dad, is this guy giving you trouble?

DAVE

It's okay, son. Homer, meet Dave Jr.

HOMER

(ANNOYED GRUNT)

DAVE

(TO DAVE JR.) How's your research
coming?

DAVE JR.

I think we're near a breakthrough.

Dave Jr. points to a window on a huge water tank with a
sign that reads: "Underwater Fathering." In it a LITTLE
BOY in scuba gear studies at a desk. A DAD in an old
fashioned diving suit has his hand on his shoulder.

Scene 12
Cont

DAVE JR. (CONT'D)

How about a game of mumblety-peg
after work?

DAVE

You're on.

— Scene 13

Homer **MOANS**.

DAVE (CONT'D)

That easy back and forth that you
just witnessed didn't happen over
night. It took years of effort.

HOMER

Gee, maybe I should go ask my son to
play that bumblebee-tag.

DAVE

No, no, Mr. Simpson. You should find
an activity that's right for you.
Does the boy have any interests?

HOMER

What boy?

DAVE

Your son. Find something he likes to
do and share in it.

HOMER

(BRIGHTENING) Well, he is building a
soapbox derby racer.

DAVE

That would be perfect.

Scene 13
cont

SFX: SIREN

We see a SHARK has entered the Underwater Fathering Tank.

DAVE (CONT'D)

Dear God! Not again.

- Scene 14

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - GARAGE - DUSK

Homer runs into the garage.

HOMER

Bart!... BART!!! I'm gonna help you
build that racer.

BART

Thanks, but I'm almost done. Why
don't you get back on the couch and
watch TV?

HOMER

Okay. (BEAT) No, I'm gonna do it.

Homer **ROLLS UP** his sleeves.

HOMER (CONT'D)

You can use me. I'm good. I've
built a lot of things around the
house... The spice rack... The
birdfeeder... The gymboree.

QUICK SHOTS AROUND THE HOUSE OF THE THINGS HOMER HAS BUILT:

A) We see the crummy looking spice rack from "Itchy vs.
Scratchy vs. Marge."

B) The birdfeeder is a little trough with a shelter that's
collapsed over it. The legs of a crushed bird protrude
out.

Scene 14
cont

C) Maggie sits atop the slide of the gymboeree. She reaches for one of the rings, grabs it, it comes off. She slides down the gymboeree and her sleeper gets caught on a nail. As she hangs off it, the gymboeree collapses with a CRASH.

HOMER

(RE CRASHING) What was that? Ah, who cares. Son, please let me help you.

BART

Come on Dad, it'd be weird.

HOMER

Oh this isn't working at all. It's hopeless... Wait a second.

Homer pulls "Fatherhood," by Bill Cosby out of his pocket. He reads and CHUCKLES for a long time.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(CHUCKLING, THEN) Hmm... (READING)

"Cosby's first law of intergenerational perversity: No matter what you tell your child to do, he will always do the opposite."

(TO BART, STIFFLY) Son, I don't think you should let me help you.

BART

Ah come on dad, if you really want to help, you can clean these paint brushes.

HOMER

(ECSTATIC) Thank you, Bill Cosby, you saved the Simpsons!

Scene 15

MONTAGE

In the style of "Tucker", **BIG BAND MUSIC PLAYS OVER** as Homer and Bart toil side-by-side on the racer:

A) Night, and the only light on in the neighborhood is from the Simpson garage.

B) The boys, now wearing home-made t-shirts that say, "Team Simpson," take the wheels from one side of Maggie's stroller and attach them to the racer. They look up from their work with a smile and a thumbs-up.

C) The garage is bathed in an orange dusty light as the boys evaluate a blueprint. Homer, distracted, picks up a jar of paint remover and drinks from it. A professional spit-take follows.

D) Homer rolls the racer out to test it, Bart behind the wheel. Homer pushes it as fast as he can, then lets it go. Homer looks happy, then upset. **PAN DOWN** to see the racer has stopped in front of him.

E) Back in the garage. Homer and Bart redesign blueprints as they snack on sandwiches. Marge proudly watches over "her boys". Homer, distracted, picks up the jar of paint remover and drinks from it. Same result.

F) Homer lies sleeping with his copy of "Fatherhood," by Bill Cosby on his chest. Next to him Bart lies sleeping with a copy of "Gravity Is My Co-Pilot," by three-time soap box derby champ Ronnie Beck.

G) Homer and Bart together. They smile at each other, then step away to dramatically reveal the finished soapbox racer. It's not much, but it's theirs. They roll it out of the garage revealing Maggie sitting in her stroller which is tilted to one side.

EXT. SPRINGFIELD - SOAPBOX DERBY TRACK - DAY

There is a banner which reads: "TIME TRIALS." The track is actually a hilly Springfield street that's set up for racing. Homer and Bart **PUSH** the racer, now decorated with the name "Li'l Lightnin'", (with a poorly drawn lightning bolt on the side) through this carnival-like atmosphere to their assigned spot.

HOMER

I like our chances, son.

Compared to the other racers, theirs looks like crap. A **RACE OFFICIAL** approaches and checks out their entry.

Scene 15
cont

OFFICIAL

Ugh. Your father is not supposed to help build your racer, but you should at least consult him about it.

HOMER

(ANNOYED GRUNT)

OFFICIAL

You're in heat four. Where's your helmet, son?

BART

Helmets are for wusses, Sir.

OFFICIAL

I don't think I can let you go without a safety helmet.

HOMER

This is my son and if he doesn't want to wear one you can't make him!

OFFICIAL

All right, fine. I want to get out of here sometime today.

The official moves off.

HOMER

Got you in without a helmet. See what a good father I am?

Martin arrives, wearing coveralls, a scarf and an aerodynamically advanced helmet. WENDELL **PUSHES** the racer, which is covered by a tarp, next to Bart's.

Scene 15
Cont

MARTIN

I say to those who question the
future of the space program...

Behold!

With a flamboyant gesture, Martin **PULLS AWAY** the tarp to reveal his car, "THE HONOR ROLLER." His racer is as sleek and low to the ground as can be, somewhat resembling the space shuttle. He even has advertising: General Dynamics, Tang, Mensa. EVERYONE gathers around to admire it.

BART

Aye carumba!

— Scene 16

MUSIC: OMINOUS STING

NELSON walks up, smoking a cigarette.

OFFICIAL

You're not supposed to smoke in the
pit area.

NELSON

Fine.

He puts the cigarette out on his tongue.

NELSON (CONT'D)

(TO MARTIN) Mind if I kick the
tires?

MARTIN

(NERVOUS) If you must.

Nelson **KICKS** a big dent in the door.

NELSON

Oops! I missed. Haw, haw! (TO
BART, MAKING FIST) Hey, Simpson,
where's your car?

Scene 16
cont

BART

(NERVOUS) Uh, over there.

Bart points to his car. Nelson examines it.

NELSON

(CHUCKLES) I don't want to scrape my
knuckles on this piece of crap.

Nelson's WEASELS/PIT CREW push up his car labelled
"ROADKILL 2000." It's big in proportion, with fangs on the
front and flames along the side. We also see a numeral
"55" with a slash through it. We hear a faint voice from
the trunk.

VOICE FROM THE TRUNK

(FAINT) Help! Help!

BART

What was that?

NELSON

You didn't hear nothin'.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SPRINGFIELD - TIME TRIALS TRACK - A LITTLE LATER

Scene 17

Bart, Martin and Nelson are at the starting line (a
removable barrier) waiting for their heat. Homer kneels
next to Bart.

BART

Dad, the steering wheel feels a
little loose.

Bart taps the steering wheel which spins out of control.

HOMER

Its just got a little play in it,
boy.

PAN OVER to Nelson and his weasels.

Scene 17
cont

WEASEL #1

Hey boss, just in case you need it.

Weasel #1 flicks up a switchblade and hands it to Nelson.

NELSON

(TOUCHED) Thanks guys.

Nelson **BANGS** their heads together.

NELSON (CONT'D)

Now get out of here.

PAN OVER to Martin talking to the STARTER.

MARTIN

(NERVOUS) Oh my. I didn't realize

this hill was so high. Could I have

another minute --

The starter pulls a lever **LOWERING** the starting gate. Bart's and Nelson's cars move to the front. Nelson moves his car next to Bart's. He pulls out a horse whip and starts to **WHIP** Bart. Bart tries to dodge him.

All of a sudden, Martin's car **ZOOMS** past them at such an incredible speed that it glows red. Martin **SCREAMS** as he crosses the finish line with no sign of stopping.

MARTIN

Aieeee!

Nelson ignores Bart and heads for the finish line. A board **FLIPS UP** from Bart's racer and **SMACKS** him in the head. The board reads: "PROPERTY OF U.S. ARMY." Bart finishes behind Nelson. Far ahead, Martin's car continues to pick up speed. Martin starts to frantically push a button labeled "PARACHUTE" on his dashboard.

MARTIN (CONT'D)

Deploy, damn you, deploy!

The parachute doesn't deploy. Martin **CRASHES** into a wall and his racer bursts into flames. The parachute limply spills out. A firetruck rolls up to the scene, and FIREMEN put out the flames with foam.

Scene 18

INT. HOSPITAL - MARTIN'S ROOM - LATER

A CRYING Martin is WHEELED IN on a gurney. The attending physician is DR. HIBBERT.

MARTIN

It hurts! It hurts! Owee-owee-owee!

Dr. Hibbert looks at an x-ray.

DR. HIBBERT

Young man, I'm afraid this stress fracture will require you to be in a cast for six weeks.

MARTIN

That means I can't possibly race!

DR. HIBBERT

Son, you're lucky to be alive. If it hadn't been for that airbag you put in...

MARTIN

Save your palliative cliches for the next poor sap, Doctor.

Bart walks up.

BART

Is it okay to visit?

DR. HIBBERT

(AMUSED) Heh, heh, heh... Of course.

A visit from his chum is the best medicine of all.

Dr. Hibbert exits.

BART

Hey man, cool crash. Way to cheat death.

MARTIN

(GLUMLY) Thanks, Bart.

BART

You had the best stick out there, man. I wish I could build 'em like you.

MARTIN

(HOLDING UP HIS ARM IN A SLING) That racer transformed me into the twisted creature you see before you. I'll never race again.

BART

If you don't race, then Nelson will win!

MARTIN

Didn't you make the cut?

BART

Yeah, but I'm still picking pieces of "Li'l Lightnin'" out of my teeth. Martin, you gotta race.

MARTIN

Even if I wanted to, I'm in no shape to do it. Unless... Bart, will you drive my car?

Scene 19
cont

BART

I don't know if I should do that. My dad and I are kind of a team. We built our car together and if I drove someone else's it'd kill him. On the other hand... I'll do it.

Martin reaches underneath his hospital gown and pulls out some keys on a chain.

MARTIN

Here, Bart. (DRAMATICALLY) These are the keys to the gates of Hell.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - GARAGE - LATER THAT DAY

— Scene 20

Homer is standing over the remnants of their failed racer. Bart walks in.

HOMER

Okay Bart, we've got a lot of work to do on that car. So, I'm gonna pull you out of school for the next couple of weeks... we're gonna buy wood at the wood store...

BART

Dad... I don't know how to say this, but I don't want to drive your car. I'm sure I won't win and frankly, I'm afraid for my life.

HOMER

Bart, the car had a few bugs in it, I admit that. But we're Team Simpson.

Scene 20
cont.

BART

(DETERMINED) Dad, I love you, but you
taught me to win.

HOMER

When did I ever teach you that?

BART

Well, I picked it up somewhere. And
if I drive Martin's car I can win.
I'm sorry, but...

HOMER

Go ahead, leave me. Go on, go on and
win without your dad.

Bart walks away, his head held in shame.

HOMER (CONT'D)

I'll just sit here in "Li'l
Lightnin'" -- which the Simpsons
built -- and remember that for one
brief shining moment, I had a son.

Homer stuffs himself into the car and sits there looking
pretty pathetic. One wheel **FALLS OFF**. Then the whole car
FALLS APART.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Ow.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

Scene 21

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

At the window, a sad and disappointed Homer watches Bart ZOOM down the street in Martin's new and improved racer. Marge is outside working with her new flower planter, which she's designed from the remains of Bart's racer. Homer MOANS. Lisa tugs at his shoulder.

LISA

Dad, you know I'm not one to
complain, but I've got an earache.

HOMER

I'll trade your earache for my broken
heart.

LISA

Even if it were possible, I don't see
how that could solve anything. Can
you take me to Dr. Hibbert?

HOMER

Oh, sure, I'll take you, wait with
you, worry about you, and then you'll
ride home with someone who has a
faster car. This is how you get your
kicks, isn't it, Lisa?

Lisa looks puzzled.

LISA

I could take the bus.

Scene 21
cont.

HOMER

Sure honey. Say, do you think I'm a
bad father?

LISA

(MAD) I'll discuss it with the bus
driver.

HOMER

(COWED) Okay, okay, I'll take you.

INT. HOMER'S CAR - DAY

Homer and Lisa are RIDING along in the car. Bart SHOOTs by
the car in his racer, passing with ease.

HOMER

(ANNOYED GRUNT)

INT. DR. HIBBERT'S WAITING ROOM - DAY

- Scene 22

A pediatrician's office with toys and magazines. We see
several CHILDREN and their PARENTS. Chuck has an ice cube
tray stuck to his tongue. Dr. Hibbert escorts Martin from
the examining room.

DR. HIBBERT

Martin, your bone is healing nicely.

MARTIN

Tell me something I don't know.

DR. HIBBERT

Well, son, an informal belly pinch...

(PINCHES MARTIN'S STOMACH)... tells
me you should cut down on banana
splits. You see, your body needs
fat, but you're storing far too
much...

Scene 22
cont

MARTIN

Spare me your stock AMA lectures,
Doctor. I'm fully aware of what my
metabolism can or cannot do.

Dr. Hibbert **CHUCKLES** good-naturedly as Homer enters the
office, carrying Lisa.

HOMER

Dr. Hibbert, Lisa has an earache.
(SPOTTING MARTIN) You! Homewrecker!

MARTIN

Mr. Simpson, you have every right to
be angry. But rest assured, your son
loves you...

HOMER

Shut up you stupid kid.

A scared Martin takes off.

DR. HIBBERT

(LAUGHING) You certainly gave that
boy the heebie-jeebies.

EXT. SOAPBOX DERBY TRACK - MORNING

The day of the Soapbox Derby has arrived. CREWS prepare
the track and the grandstand. HAWKERS set up their booths.
Tension and excitement fill the air.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME

— Scene 23

Homer is on the couch watching TV as Bart, in racing
coveralls, Marge, Lisa, Maggie, and Patty and Selma prepare
to leave.

BART

Dad, aren't you coming?

Scene 23
cont.

HOMER

No!

MARGE

Now, don't pout.

HOMER

(WHINING) I'm not pouting, you are.

PATTY

Let him stay there.

SELMA

Yeah, there's no room in the car for that couch.

BART

Dad, you gotta come. I just got your hat out of the fridge.

Bart holds a hat with two beers and plastic tubes on the side. The hat is labeled "Foam Dome".

HOMER

Sorry.

MARGE

Don't you at least have something to say to Bart?

HOMER

(FALSELY) Let me think... Do I have anything to say to my boy?... No, I don't think so... I'm wracking my brain...

Scene 23
cont.

MARGE

Homer! I've always said you were a
good father. I've always defended
you when people put you down.

SELMA

That's for sure.

PATTY

She ain't lyin'.

MARGE

But I guess I was wrong. You are a
bad father.

HOMER

You're right. I'm a bad father.

(SINGING TO THE TUNE OF "GIRL
WATCHER") I'm a bad father/ I'm a bad
father/ Lyin' on the couch.

His head hung a little, Bart heads out, then looks back.
Homer turns away and watches TV.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

— Scene 24

Homer is watching the Soapbox Derby festivities on TV, and
drinking out of his hat. A BRITISH COMMENTATOR does a
stand-up from the staging area.

BRITISH COMMENTATOR

Good morning, everybody, and welcome
to an event that harkens back to the
carefree days of the Great Depression
-- The Soapbox Derby.

Scene 24
Cont.

We SEE graphics of a stock market arrow going down DISSOLVE into a racer going down hill. Homer drains his beer: we HEAR two SLURPING sounds from the straws, then goes to the kitchen for another brew.

INT. SIMPSON HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONT.

Homer enters. On the door of the refrigerator are Homer's inspirational clippings -- a muscleman, Einstein, Mr. Moneybags from Monopoly. Marge has taped the National Fatherhood Institute test alongside. It catches Homer's eye.

HOMER

(READING) "Name your son's hobbies."

(TEARFULLY) Building a soapbox racer with his dad... "Name your child's friends." (ANGRY) Martin... Martin! I'll curse that name 'til the day I die... "Who are your son's heroes?"...

Homer ponders.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(INSPIRED) Three-time Soapbox Derby Champion Ronnie Beck!

Homer adds up his score.

HOMER (CONT'D)

Whoo-hooo! Three down one to go.
"Name another dad you talked to about parenting." (MOANS)

FLANDERS passes by the window.

FLANDERS

Hey ho Simpson.

Scene 24
cont.

HOMER

Shut up Flanders. (REALIZING)

Flanders!

— Scene 25

EXT. SIMPSON HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER

Homer **RUSHES** to his car.

HOMER

(YELLING) Flanders, when should a boy
start dating?

FLANDERS

Well, there are two schools of
thought...

HOMER

Great, thanks.

Homer **RUNS** off.

HOMER (CONT'D)

(OVERJOYED) I talked to Flanders
about parenting. Four out of four!
I'm a perfect dad!

EXT. SOAPBOX DERBY TRACK - SAME

The grandstands are jammed. BARNEY and MOE approach Patty
and Selma.

BARNEY

(TO PATTY) My friend and I have a bet
-- Are you Mary Tyler Moore?

Patty **SPRAYS** him with mace.

BARNEY (CONT'D)

Wow, it really is you.

Scene 25
cont

PAN ACROSS to the pit area where a crew (Milhouse, WENDELL) is working on Martin's racer. Bart sits inside. Martin, his arm in a sling, carries a clipboard.

MARTIN

Bart, if she breaks up on you, steer away from the grandstands, or else you might kill hundreds of innocent spectators. (BEAT) Bart what did I just tell you?

Bart looks listless.

BART

Kill spectators.

Martin **SLAPS** Bart.

MARTIN

What's the matter with you?

BART

It's my dad. Lying there on the couch drinking a beer, staring at the TV. I've never seen him like that.

MARTIN

Forget about your father. You're driving for me now!

Martin **SLAPS** Bart hard again.

NELSON

Hey, gimme a piece of that action.

Nelson **HITS** Bart in the stomach. Bart doesn't react.

ANGLE ON BART

Looking sad.

MUSIC UP - THE THEME FROM "THE NATURAL". Something off in the grandstand catches Bart's attention.

ANGLE ON GRANDSTAND

Homer **RISES** out of the crowd, a hot dog in his hand. He adjusts his underwear and sticks his thumb up in the air.

HOMER

(CRIES OUT, MOUTH FULL) Do it for
your old man, boy!

Homer sits back down.

BACK TO SCENE

Bart's listless expression turns to one of determination. He motions to Martin.

BART

Martin, come here.

Martin leans in towards Bart. Bart **SLAPS** him.

BART (CONT'D)

I still owe you one.

MARTIN

Good to have you back, man.

EXT. SOAPBOX DERBY TRACK - MINUTES LATER

Bart and Nelson are at the starting line, their respective crews **ROOTING** them on. The British Commentator is there with his hand-held mike. Nelson **STRIKES A MATCH** off Bart's head to light his cigarette. Bart gives him a look.

P.A. ANNOUNCER (O.S.)

Ladies and gentlemen, to drop the
checkered flag, our beloved Mayor,
Diamond Joe Quimby.

Springfield's own **DIAMOND JOE QUIMBY**, with **HIS ENTOURAGE**, holds up the official starter's flag and acknowledges the crowd.

Scene 26
Cont

QUIMBY

To everyone participating today, I
salute your vigor. (ASIDE TO AIDE,
RE GRANDSTAND) Check out the rack on
the blonde in the fourth row.

Quimby **DROPS** the flag, the barrier comes down and --
they're off! A BOX APPEARS AT THE CORNER OF THE SCREEN
WITH THE ELAPSED TIME. The two drivers lower their heads
as the racers pick up speed.

BRITISH COMMENTATOR (O.S.)

These junior Al Unser Juniors hurtle
down the straightaway as Mother Earth
pulls them firmly to her bosom.

POV - FROM INSIDE THE RACER

High-speed jostling view of the track ahead.

ANGLE ON SPECTATORS

PAN ACROSS the faces of the **CHEERING** FANS to Marge, Homer,
who is **EATING** a hot dog, and Lisa, who is **JUMPING** up and
down. Maggie **SUCKS** her pacifier and intently watches a
balloon someone is holding.

ANGLE ON NELSON'S HENCHMEN

YELLING, waving their fists, **DRINKING** beer, shoving each
other.

BACK TO THE RACE

Scene 27

The action is furious as the two racers exchange the lead.
Nelson pulls ahead, **LAUGHING** like a hyena. Bart tries to
pass, but Nelson cuts him off.

BRITISH COMMENTATOR (O.S.)

... like the arrogant Roman and Judah
Ben Hur, these modern charioteers
battle ferociously. No quarter
given, none asked.

Scene 27
cont.

CLOSE UP ON RACERS

Bart's face showing grim determination, is being **SPATTERED** by bugs.

ANGLE ON MARTIN AND HIS CREW

Checking stopwatches, **CHEERING**.

MARTIN

(YELLING) Lean forward! By God, man,
lean forward like you've never leaned
before.

BACK TO THE RACE

Bart leans forward and **ZOOMS** ahead of Nelson to win the race.

A SERIES OF STILL SHOTS:

- A) Martin's crew pours Gatorade over his head.
- B) Homer, Marge and Lisa, cheering.
- C) Bart, in the winner's circle, is being kissed by a **BATHING BEAUTY**. He has a disgusted look on his face.
- D) Nelson, beating up his pit crew.
- E) Diamond Joe Quimby coming on to the **BABE** in the grandstand. He is pointing to his sash which reads "MAYOR".

BACK TO SCENE

The crowd leaves the grandstand and **SURGES** around Bart.

BRITISH COMMENTATOR (O.S.)

(EMOTIONAL) The world has not seen
the likes of this since the French
carried Lucky Lindy off on their
shoulders from Le Bourget Field.

EXT. SOAPBOX DERBY TRACK - LATER

— Scene 28

At the victory stand Bart, covered with road grime, is surrounded by **ADMIRERS** and the other Simpsons.

Scene 18
Cont.

P.A. ANNOUNCER (V.O.)

And now, to present the trophy, three
time Soapbox Derby Champion, Ronnie
Beck.

The crowd parts to reveal a very small boy with a high
voice holding a trophy.

RONNIE

Congratulations Bart. Seeing you out
there brought back a lot of memories.

BART

Thanks, Mr. Beck. I was alone out
there, but someone was riding with me
in spirit... This is for you, Dad.

Bart **HOLDS UP** the trophy to Homer.

HOMER

(TO BART; RE TROPHY) No, son, you
earned it.

MARTIN

I might remind you both, I did design
that racer. The driver is
essentially ballast.

Nelson approaches.

NELSON

(TO BART) Simpson, the better man
won. You can really drive.

BART

Thanks, Nelson, that means a lot
coming from you.

Scene 28
cont.

Bart extends his hand then pulls it back.

BART (CONT'D)

Ha-ha-ha-ha-ha! Loser! Nyah-nyah!

MARGE

Bart, what are you doing?

BART

(SINCERELY) Mom, I never won before.

I may never win again. Nyah-nyah,
nyah, nyah-nyah!

HOMER

That's my boy. Nyah-nyah, nyah,
nyah-nyah!

Homer **HUGS** Bart.

INT. NATIONAL FATHERHOOD INSTITUTE

PULL BACK from a big screen to reveal scientists are watching the scene at their monitors. They **CHEER** like the crew at Mission Control, **POPPING** champagne corks and giving an Arsenio **CHANT**. Dave and Dave Jr. hug.

FADE OUT.

THE END